

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION

MAY 5, 2010

Minutes

Present: Stephanie Pelkowsky, Tony Bibbo, Ellen Manning, Joseph DeVito, Kirsten Touhy, Ruth Hoshino, Matt Green, Donna Gordon, Steve Ross, Jeffrey Mace, Rich Catrambone, Rich Dyer, Chris Fortunato

Staff: Linda Walsh, Ruth Hoshino

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Welcome by chairperson and introductions from the group

Guest Presentation: Rachele Pojednic – Did not attend. No presentation.

Staff support during transition period:

Linda Walsh assured the group that the work of the commission will be supported by staff at HHS now that Bev Droz's position was eliminated in the new budget. She introduced Ruth Hoshino. Linda and Ruth will be attending meetings together initially through the transition. Donna asked if the commission should recognize Bev Droz in some way. Joe and Linda suggested personal cards and notes. Stephanie thought flowers would be a great way to thank Bev for all her work. A collection was started. Linda will make sure flowers were sent to Bev tomorrow.

Joe thanked the commission members and asked for their continued support for the work of the commission.

Tony gave some history of the origin of the group created by ordinance in the late 1960's. Linda has a copy and will email it to the group.

Rich commented that the commission needs kids to join. Tony and Stephanie agreed. Stephanie said that kids do not always know the resources that are here in Newton. The group thought that moving the meetings around to different places might help recruit new kids to the group. This had been done before and the 'road trips' have been met with good results. Matt suggested the youth commission meet over the summer to strategize and offered to meet at his office. Rich suggested we access the leadership groups at both high schools and open it up to other kids. Kirsten thought the boys and girls clubs were a good group to approach as well.

Program Discussion:

Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD)

FCD programs were held at both high schools in April

Kirsten said she attended 2 of the 4 workshops at North. The presentors were great. The questions were great. The attendance was excellent filling up the lecture hall with approximately 100-150 students.

Donna said there were 5 presentations at South. The format with 2 speakers was fabulous and well worth the time. Kids asked great questions. Approximately 140 students attended.

Restorative Justice

Joe said the sub committee had met and watched a video. He feels this program has great potential. Rich thought the meeting was informative. He felt that restorative justice circles are very broad and shared his vision and success at Newton South. Donna passed out a rough draft of a flier for the proposed program in May. Joe thought the committee should plan to reach out to the public to be part of a pilot program. Donna asked for input on the flier and on the program. Just let sub committee know.

The committee will meet after this meeting to discuss a possible public program to be held at the library in May.

Youth Service Award

Stephen Ross is this year's recipient. The date of June 15, 2010 was chosen. Stephen is honored and plans to bring his wife and son. Ellen offered to host the dinner at the Chestnut Street teen center. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm. The Mayor will be extended an invitation. Wording for the plaque needs to be decided. Joe has Steve's bio. Ruth and Linda will work on the plaque.

Other business:

Rich announced a fundraiser on Saturday May 8th for Haiti. It is a talent show from 7-9 pm. All are welcome.

Linda will bring the committee member list for updates.

Restorative justice sub committee will meet after this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm